

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02378 01 OF 02 301355Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----039889 301403Z /41

O 301250Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1258
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2378

EXDIS

PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: US-TURKEY RELATIONS-DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER ECEVIT

1. FOLLOWING 45 MINUTE PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY
SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AT 5:30 PM MARCH 29,
LARGER MEETING TOOK PLACE. ECEVIT AND OKCUN HAD TO LEAVE
FOR PARLIAMENTARY ROLL-CALL FOR FIRST 25 MINUTES OF
LARGER SESSION. IN THEIR ABSENCE, MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG
CONDUCTED TURKISH SIDE OF TALKS.

2. FOLLOWING COVERS POINTS WHICH ELEKDAG AND ECEVIT
RAISED AND NOTES AGREED CONCLUSIONS BUT DOES NOT FULLY
REFLECT DISCUSSIONS:

A) ELEKDAG ASKED IF THERE COULD BE IMMEDIATE
REVIEW OF SO-CALLED "SWEETENER LIST" CONTAINED IN A
MARCH 26, 1976, KISSINGER-TO-CAGLAYANGIL COVER LETTER
ATTACHED TO DCA. HE BELIEVED THAT QUICK MOVEMENT
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02378 01 OF 02 301355Z

REGARDING THE MILITARY ITEMS ON THAT LIST WOULD HAVE
AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT IN IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE IN
TURKEY. AMERICAN SIDE (SEVERAL SPEAKERS) SAID THAT
ONCE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED, THERE WOULD BE NO IMPEDIMENT
TO QUICK MOVEMENT. WE POINTED OUT THAT IN SOME CASES,
THE SPECIFIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE
AVAILABLE AND OTHER CASES, THEY MIGHT NOW CONSIDER

SOME OF IT OBSOLESCE AFTER A THREE YEAR GAP. IT WAS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT TURKISH AND AMERICAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD GET TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE LIST AND THAT WHERE APPROPRIATE, DISCUSS POSSIBLE "SUBSTITUTIONS."

B) ELEKDAG RAISED TRAINING PROGRAMS (IMET). COULD THESE BE IMPLEMENTED AS BEFORE? AMERICAN SIDE SAID YES BUT POINTED OUT IMET WAS NOW MORE EXPENSIVE. WE WERE UNCERTAIN WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN TERMS OF LEAD TIMES AND WHETHER IMET ON A GRANT BASIS COULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE FY-1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING IMET AND WHETHER IT COULD BE PROVIDED ON A GRANT BASIS.

C) ELEKDAG WAS ASSURED THAT ONCE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED, NAMSA COULD BE USED WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

D) ELEKDAG ASKED ABOUT SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (THIS WAS ALSO IEM ON SWEETENER LIST). WE SAW NO REASON WHY TURKS SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO EUROPE THROUGH THE DEFENSE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

E) ELEKDAG ASKED HOW SOON MAP ITEMS HELD UP IN PIPELINE COULD START FLOWING. AMERICAN SIDE SAID THAT IN SOME CASES IMMEDIATELY. WE PROMISED TO DO OUR BEST
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 02378 01 OF 02 301355Z

TO INSURE PRIORITY SHIPMENT AND SIAD THAT JUSMMAT WOULD BE ASKED TO LOOK INTO THE SUBJECT IMMEDIATELY.

F) ELEKDAG RAISED QUESTION OF "FOOT DRAGGING" BY EX-IM BANK. AMERICAN SIDE POINTED OUT THAT EXIM PROBLEM WAS ONE OF TURKISH ARREARAGES AMOUNTING TO SOME EIGHTEEN MILLION DOLLARS, NOT "FOOT DRAGGING." MR NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT TURKISH FINANCE MINISTER MUEZZINOGLU HAD MET WITH EXIM OFFICIALS LAST WEEK AND SAID THAT NUMETZ UNDERSTOOD GOT AND EXIM WERE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT ON QUESTION OF ARREARAGES. DEPSEC PROMISED TO TALK TO PRESIDENT OF EXMIM BANK ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND TO ASK HIM TO NORMALIZE TURKISH-EXIM RELATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, COMPATIBLE WITH STATUTES GOVERNING EXIM.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 2378

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PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY

3. PRIMIN, WHO HAD JUST REJOINED GROUP, TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT TURKEY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. HE THEN SAID HE WISHED TO ADD IMPORTANT POINT; THERE WAS A NEED FOR TURKEY TO FEEL MORE AT EASE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. GIVEN TURKEY'S RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND PARTICULARLY ITS EXPERIENCE WITH ETHNIC INFLUENCES IN THE US CONGRESS AS WELL AS WITH CONGRESS-ADMINISTRATION STRAINS, TURKEY NEEDED TO HAVE GREATER ARMS PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF ITS OWN. HE NOTED THAT THE EUROPEANS ESCAPED COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON THE US THROUGH CONSORTIUMS. ECEVIT SAID THAT TURKEY WISHED TO DO MORE MANUFACTURING AND WOULD NEED TO EXPORT SOME OF ITS ARMS. HE NOTED THAT THE TURKS COULD NOW BUILD SUBMARINES WITH GERMAN LICENSING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. HE HOPED THAT AT SOME POINT THE TURKS WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY SUBMARINES TO OTHER ALLIES. HE ALSO SPECULATED TURKS MIGHT BE ABLE TO BUILD OTHER SHIPS, AS WELL AS MANUFACTURE "SMALL ARMAMENTS." ELEKDAG INTERJECTED THAT IN PAST, TURKS HAD MANUFACTURED LABOR INTENSIVE PARTS IN SIDEWINDERS. THES SEEMED TO HIM
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02378 02 OF 02 301345Z

TO SUGGEST POSSIBILITIES. POSSIBLY THE US COULD ORDER PARTS FROM TURKEY.

4. MR CHRISTOPHER SAID HE COULD ONLY RESPOND GENERALLY TO THESE IDEAS. LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD CREATE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AND HE HOPED THAT SOME FEASIBLE ONES

COULD BE FOUND. HE PROMISED TO TALK TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PEOPLE ABOUT THE TURKISH IDEAS. AMBASSADOR SPIERS ADDED THAT "IN PRINCIPLE" THE US COULD TRY BUT IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WERE COMPLICATED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. MR VEST SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE HIS OFFICE LOOK INTO THE TURKISH IDEAS IN THE NATO CONTEXT BUT THAT HE WISHED TO CAUTION THAT IN PRACTICE, JOINT ACTIVITIES WERE HARD TO FIND.

5. CONVERSATIONS ENDED WITH DISCUSSION OF PRESS TREATMENT. PRIMIN SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT TOMORROW (MARCH 30) THAT CONVERSATIONS HAD BEEN PART OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOT THAT HAD STARTED WITH THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE. GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID FOR REVITALIZING TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE CHRISTOPHER VISIT HAD PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL (AS CONTRASTED TO THE NIMETZ VISIT WHICH THE TURKS HAD EARLIER CHARACTERIZED AS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL). HE WOULD TELL THE PRESS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MADE CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS AND THAT TURKISH VIEWS WERE BEING SENT BACK TO THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THERE WOULD BE POSITIVE RESULTS AND WOULD MAKE MORE CONCRETE DISCLOSURES AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS. FONMIN ASKED IF DEPSEC WOULD REPORT THESE TALKS TO NATO ALLIES. DEPSEC SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT DISCUSSIONS TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02378 02 OF 02 301345Z

LEADERS IN BONN AND IN LONDON WHERE HE WAS GOING FROM TURKEY. HE WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES TO BE HELPFUL WHERE THEY COULD AND WOULD POINT OUT TO THEM THAT LIFTING OF EMBARGO MEANT THAT THIRD COUNTRIES COULD PASS US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT TO TURKEY. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT LIFTING THE EMBARGO WAS STILL GOING TO BE DIFFICULT POLITICAL TASK.

6. ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH DEPSEC.
DILLON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR SECRETARY.

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